

NEWS RELEASE



City of Cincinnati

Contact: Tiffaney Hardy 513.352.5377 at tiffaney.hardy@cincinnati-oh.gov Date: December 11, 2008
Ethel Cogen 513.352.6135 at ethel.cogen@cincinnati-oh.gov

Evanston Achieves Success with Neighborhood Enhancement Program

Strategic Partnerships and Long Term Sustainability Key Outcomes

Today, the City of Cincinnati and the community of Evanston announced the results and celebrated the successes of the 90-day strategy focused on addressing neighborhood quality of life issues that began September 2, 2008 and lasted through November 30, 2008. The Neighborhood Enhancement Program (NEP) has been successful in proactively revitalizing the City's neighborhoods by creating long-term strategic partnerships in the community to address crime, blight, and building code violations.

The program has been successfully implemented in Price Hill, Avondale and Northside in 2007 and in Clifton Heights/University Heights/Fairview and Westwood earlier in 2008. The efforts in the program neighborhoods have resulted in an average reduction of blight in those areas by an average of 15%. In 2008 the NEP Program won three awards for excellence in public private partnerships, being nationally recognized by Neighborhoods USA as the *2008 National Program of the Year*, recipient of the Ohio Conference of Community Development's *President's Award* and locally by the Community Development Corporations Association of Greater Cincinnati for the *Most Outstanding Collaborative Effort*.

Through focused, integrated city service delivery and community redevelopment efforts, partners (City departments, residents, and community organizations) sought out to improve the quality of life and develop neighborhood assets in Evanston. "The community building efforts are ongoing," said City Manager Milton Dohoney. "This program was about creating strategic partnerships between City departments, community organizations, and most importantly, the residents of Evanston. Over the last 90 days these partners worked together to boost the neighborhood and quality of life in Evanston." The targeted area was identified through an analysis of building code violations, vacant buildings, disorder and drug calls for Police service and drug arrests, as well as incidence of graffiti, junk autos, litter and weeds.

"The 90-day mark of this program is a check on the progress of the concentrated efforts which brought together all the parties of the neighborhood. Evanston has quite a few initiatives that are ongoing, emphasizing the long term sustainability of this effort," said Dohoney.

Integrated services delivery included: concentrating building code enforcement; identifying and 'cooling down' crime hot spots; cleaning up streets, sidewalks, and vacant lots; beautifying landscapes, streetscapes and public right of way; and engaging property owners and residents to create and sustain a more livable neighborhood after the first 90 days.

Results

- Partnership formed with District 2 Police and the State of Ohio Attorney General's office resulted in the Attorney General's office filing a civil complaint in Hamilton County Common Pleas Court against Perkins Lounge for maintaining a public nuisance subject to abatement. This pending court case will be followed closely by the Evanston community.
- District 2 Police is continuing to make progress in 5 Points area of Evanston with the owners of the St. Ledger Apartments at the 5 Points, to reduce crime and improve the quality of life for both its occupants and the surrounding community. This continuing effort will also be closely monitored by Evanston.
- Thanks to the generous donation of U.S. Bank the community is in the process of purchasing a sound system to discourage loitering on a hot spot corner in the Evanston Business District.
- Over 1,000 buildings inspected by City building inspectors and already a number of buildings have resolved their citations.
- 2 buildings demolished under the Hazard Abatement Program with 15 more under contract.
- The Fire Department inspected over 500 buildings.
- Over 1100 faded traffic signs were replaced throughout Evanston.

Partners of the Evanston NEP included: Evanston Community Council, Evanston Business Association, American Red Cross, Cincinnati Area Board of Realtors, District 2 Police, The Home Ownership Center, Keep Cincinnati Beautiful, Neyer Properties, People Working Cooperatively, Police Partnering Center, US Bank, Xavier University and the Community Building Institute, and City Departments of Community Development, Recreation, Transportation and Engineering, Public Services, Litter Inspections, Health, Police and Fire.